

REMARKS

Claims 3-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 3 and 5-15 have been amended to depend from claim 16. Additionally, the subject matter of claim 3 has been incorporated into independent claim 4.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Independent claim 16 stands allowed and dependent claim 3 contains allowable subject matter but stands objected to for being dependent upon rejected claim 4. Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 3 into independent claim 4. Thus, claim 4 now stands in allowable form. Additionally, claims 3 and 5-15 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 16. Thus, claims 3 and 5-15 are now in allowable form. Therefore Applicant submits that claims 3-16 are now in allowable form and thus, the application is in condition for immediate allowance.

II. Claim Rejections

Claims 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Yamagishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,563). Claims 4-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Egashira (U.S. Patent No. 5,439,227) in view of Yamagishi '563. Claims 4-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Higuchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,311) in view of Yamagishi '563. Since the claims are now in allowable form as discussed above, Applicant submits that these rejections are now moot.

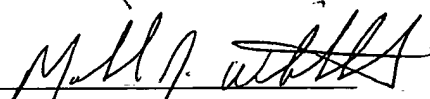
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/129,883

Attorney Docket No.: Q46699

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: January 22, 2004